



Interested Person (IP)

Your Guide



What is an 'interested person' (IP)?

You have been given this information sheet because the coroner has decided that you are an 'interested person' in respect of someone's death. The coroner decides who is or is not an 'interested person' according to a legal definition set out in the Coroners and Justice Act 2009. An 'interested person' can be an actual person, or it can be an organization, and a number of interested persons can be involved in the same investigation.

Often someone will be told that they are an interested person because they are a close relative of the person who has died, but an interested person can also be someone involved with the death (a hospital, for example - if the person who died received treatment there); a person who may have caused or contributed to the death; a person appointed by a Government department, or anyone else who the coroner thinks has a sufficient interest.

How can you help?

As an interested person you can help the coroner by:

- Co-operating with the coroner's office and promptly giving them any information you feel may be relevant to the investigation and inquest
- Wherever possible, naming one individual as the 'next of kin' to communicate with the coroner's office. (If more than one person needs to be a contact for the coroner - for example in divided families - please explain this to the coroner's officer and provide contact details.)
- Telling the coroner's office if your contact details change
- Telling the coroner's office as soon as possible if you have any specific needs for the inquest, for example if you have a disability, religious needs, or if English is not your first language.

More information

If you would like more information about any part of the inquest process, then a good place to start is the '[Guide to coroner services for bereaved people](#)' produced by the Ministry of Justice. Our website is also available at avon-coroner.com

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOU IN PRACTISE?

Being an 'interested person' means that you have certain rights while the coroner investigates the death, and during the inquest itself. These include the right:

- To be told about the dates of court hearings
- To receive documents that may be used in the inquest from the coroner
- To ask relevant questions if witnesses come to court to give evidence at the inquest.

DO YOU HAVE TO DO ANYTHING AS AN 'INTERESTED PERSON'?

If the coroner has asked you to provide written evidence for the inquest (usually a statement or letter) or to give evidence at court, then you must do so. However, if you have not been asked to give evidence in this way, then there is no requirement on you to do anything, or to participate in the investigation or inquest, just because you are an 'interested person'. Some Interested Persons seek legal advice, and some are represented by lawyers in court.